

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the originally filed claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (new): An apparatus which may be used as a fuel cell pack intended to be integrated into a power-producing device, said apparatus comprising:

- a) a plurality of elementary cells; and
- b) a fluid distribution means, wherein:
 - 1) said fluid distribution means supplies each said elementary cell with two input fluids, and allows for the discharge of two output fluids from said elementary cells;
 - 2) said fluid distribution means is able to be connected to a fluid distribution system of the power-producing device which said apparatus is intended to be integrated with; and
 - 3) said fluid distribution means comprises a series of first valve elements, wherein:
 - i) said first valve elements are located on a first side of said apparatus; and
 - ii) when said apparatus is integrated with said power producing device, said first valve elements are able to substantially cooperate with a series of second valve elements located on said fluid distribution system.

Claim 18 (new): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein all said first valve elements are arranged on the same face of said apparatus.

Claim 19 (new): The apparatus of claim 18, wherein each said first valve element has an axis of symmetry parallel to each other.

Claim 20 (new): The apparatus of claim 19, wherein each said first valve element comprises a moving member, wherein said member is able to move in the direction of said axis of symmetry.

Claim 21 (new): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein:

- a) each said first valve element further comprises a first hollow body;

- b) said first hollow body contains both said moving member and a spring; and
- c) said spring is able to move said moving member.

Claim 22 (new): The apparatus of claim 18, wherein:

- a) said first valve elements are located on an end plate of said apparatus;
and
- b) said end plate provides a mechanical retaining function.

Claim 23 (new): An apparatus which may be used as a power-producing device based upon a fuel cell, said apparatus comprising:

- a) at least one fuel cell pack, wherein said fuel cell pack comprises:
 - 1) a plurality of elementary cells; and
 - 2) a fluid distribution means, wherein:
 - i) said fluid distribution means supplies each said elementary cell with two input fluids, and allows for the discharge of two output fluids from said elementary cells;
 - ii) said fluid distribution means is able to be connected to a fluid distribution system of said apparatus; and
 - iii) said fluid distribution means comprises at least one series of first valve elements, wherein said first valve elements are located on a first side of said fuel cell pack;
- b) said fluid distribution system, wherein:
 - 1) said fluid distribution system is able to supply each said fuel cell pack with said input fluids, and allows for the discharge of at least two said output fluids from each said fuel cell pack; and
 - 2) said fluid distribution system is able to be connected to at least one external circuit for the supply of said input fluids, and to at least one external circuit for the discharge of said output fluids; and
- c) at least one series of second valve elements, wherein said second valve elements are able to substantially cooperate with said first valve elements.

Claim 24 (new): The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said fluid distribution system further comprises a support member, wherein said support member comprises:

- a) at least one fluid input member; and
- b) at least one fluid output member.

Claim 25 (new): The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said support member is a plate.

Claim 26 (new): The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said support member is made of plastic and formed by injection molding or compression molding.

Claim 27 (new): The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said support member further comprises integrated channels to allow said fluids to circulate.

Claim 28 (new): The apparatus of claim 24, wherein:

- a) said fluid distribution system comprises said series of second valve elements; and
- b) each said series of second valve elements is able to substantially cooperate with a corresponding said series of first valve elements.

Claim 29 (new): The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:

- a) each said first valve element comprises a first moving member, wherein said first moving member is able to move in the direction of the axis of symmetry of said first valve element; and
- b) each said second valve element comprises an actuating element, wherein said actuating element is able to move said first moving member of the corresponding said first valve element from a closed position to an open position.

Claim 30 (new): The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said actuating element is an opening/closing member which is able to move in the direction of the axis of symmetry of said second valve element.

Claim 31 (new): The apparatus of claim 30, wherein:

- a) each said second valve element comprises a second hollow body;
- b) said second hollow body contains both said actuating element and a spring; and
- c) said spring is able to move said actuating element.

Claim 32 (new): The apparatus of claim 31, wherein:

- a) each said first valve element comprises a first hollow body;
- b) said first hollow body contains both said moving member and a spring
- c) said spring is able to move said moving member.

Claim 33 (new): The apparatus of claim 32, wherein a free end of said first hollow body is able to fit into the corresponding said second hollow body.

Claim 34 (new): The apparatus of claim 33, wherein a sealing element is located between said first hollow body and said corresponding second hollow body.

Claim 35 (new): The apparatus of claim 32, wherein a free end of said second hollow body is able to fit into the corresponding said first hollow body.

Claim 36 (new): The apparatus of claim 35, wherein a sealing element is located between said second hollow body and said corresponding first hollow body.

Claim 37 (new): The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:

- a) a substantial portion of a component is made of plastic formed by injection molding or compression molding; and
- b) said component comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of:
 - 1) said first valve element; and
 - 2) said second valve element.